
Quality Teaching in Northern New Mexico

February 1, 2014



Let's all say congratulations to Vivian Valencia who has been selected for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (see the [featured article this month](#)). This is well deserved recognition for one of our many high-quality teachers in northern New Mexico. I'm happy to say that she is a graduate of the [Lab's Math and Science Academy \(MSA\)](#) and our inquiry science pilot program. In talking with Vivian, I learned that her father is "thrilled beyond belief." She said "MSA launched my career" and that she is thankful for the many people that have guided her professional development in education. Teachers like Vivian are critical to our children's success in life and work.

This month's issue also includes a variety of activities for students including [RoboRave](#), [the Future City Competition](#) and [other upcoming activities](#).

In this issue we also highlight support for entrepreneurs through [crowdfunding](#) and a UNM class that helps people start new businesses. As a result of the students' efforts last semester, work is underway for new economic development in the region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give a special congratulations to the team from Los Alamos High School for winning the regional Department of Energy Science Bowl. My best wishes at the national competition later this year.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue of Community Connections. Sincerely, Kurt Steinhaus *Executive Office Director*

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